

Potential Funding Sources (October 5, 2014)

Program	Purpose
FEDERAL	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan	CERP projects are eligible for 50:50 cost sharing per WRDA, 2000.
Small Navigation Projects	To provide the most practicable and economic means of fulfilling the needs of general navigation, through projects not specifically authorized by Congress.
U.S. Department of Interior - federal land acquisition programs	
Land and Water Conservation Fund – Federal Land Acquisition	Acquisition for various federal agencies [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service].
Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (USFWS)	Receipts in this account allow USFWS to acquire important migratory breeding areas, migration resting places, and wintering areas. Areas acquired become part of the refuge system.
Grant programs strictly for land acquisition by non-federal entities	
Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Act Program (USFWS)	To provide grants to states for Recovery Land Acquisition. (There is additional funding for Habitat Conservation Fund Land Acquisition Grants.)
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by non-federal agencies	
State and Tribal Wildlife Grants (USFWS)	To help states and tribes implement comprehensive wildlife conservation plans and activities.
Land and Water Conservation Fund State Grant Program (National Park Service)	To provide matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.
Sport Fish Restoration – Grants to States (USFWS)	To provide funding for fisheries recreation and conservation efforts in the United States. Non-competitive apportionment-based program.
Federal Aid and Wildlife Restoration – Grants to States	This program apportions funds to states and territories for use in restoring and protecting wildlife.
Grant programs that may be used for land acquisition and other purposes by federal and non-federal agencies	
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (USFWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Sport Fish Restoration - Coastal Wetlands Grants (USFWS)	To acquire, restore and enhance wetlands in coastal states (FDEP/Nature Conservancy used this program for a project in Hendry Creek to buffer Estero Bay).
Federal Aid Wetlands Conservation (USFWS)	May fund the acquisition of habitat for waterfowl and migrating birds in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.
Other partnership programs supporting non-land acquisition conservation activities	
Private Stewardship Grants Program (USFWS)	To provide grants for on-the-ground conservation projects on private lands benefiting federally listed, threatened, endangered species or other at-risk species.
Landowner Incentive Program (USFWS)	Establish or supplement existing landowner incentive programs that provide technical or financial assistance, including habitat protection and restoration, to private landowners to benefit species at risk.

Program	Purpose
Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (Fish and Wildlife Service)	To provide assistance to landowners to voluntarily restore wetlands, streams, grasslands, woodlands, and other important habitat that support fish and wildlife.
Coastal Program	To work with coastal communities and other partners to focus and leverage resources on high-priority coastal habitat issues by providing important technical and financial support to our existing and new partners, including the Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem.
National Park Service Challenge Cost Share	To increase the participation of neighboring communities and qualified partners in preserving and improving the cultural, natural, and recreational resources for which the National Park Service is responsible.
USFWS Challenge Cost Share	Foster innovative and creative cooperative efforts to restore natural resources and establish or expand wildlife habitat, with an emphasis on federal lands and resources.
Bureau of Land Management Challenge Cost Share	To leverage federal dollars with private and state funding for conservation efforts, benefiting resources on Bureau of Land Management administered public lands. The program solicits partnerships and partnership funding through a variety of resource management programs, including fisheries, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources and recreation.
U.S. Department of Transportation	
National Scenic Byways Program	To provide grants in support of eligible projects, including protection of natural resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.
Federal Lands Highway Program	To provide funds for eligible projects to include acquisition of necessary scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
High Priority Projects	To support member priority projects.
Transportation Enhancements	To provide reimbursement for 12 eligible activities that enhance the transportation experience, including acquisition of scenic easements and sites.
U.S. Department of Agriculture	
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	To remove marginal agricultural lands from production and establish conservation practices to improve water quality and create wildlife habitat.
Conservation Innovation Grant	Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. Under CIG, Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds are used to award competitive grants to non-federal governmental or non-governmental organizations, Tribes, or individuals. CIG enables Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to work with other public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer and adoption of promising technologies and approaches to address some of the nation's most pressing natural resource concerns. CIG will benefit agricultural producers by providing more options for environmental enhancement and compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. NRCS administers CIG.
Forest Legacy Program	To help states acquire fees or easements for perpetual forest preservation.
Wetlands Reserve Program	To assist landowners in restoring wetlands and wetland functions.
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRLPP)	To purchase easements on farm and ranch lands that will remain in agricultural production.

Program	Purpose
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	To encourage the creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations on wetland, riparian, upland and aquatic habitat on agricultural lands.
Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Farm Bill) Section 390	To provide \$200 million to the Secretary of the Interior to conduct restoration activities in the Everglades ecosystem in South Florida, including the acquisition of real property.
Rural Development Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Guaranteed and Direct Loans and Grants	U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Guaranteed and Direct Loans and Grants – This program provides a combination of loans and grants for water, wastewater, and solid waste projects to rural communities and small incorporated municipalities. Some nonprofit entities also may be eligible. For more information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWEP_HomePage.html or contact Michael Langston at 352.338.3485 or
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	
Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program	To provide matching funds to states to acquire land or easements to protect or restore coastal areas that have considerable conservation, recreation, ecological, or economic value and are threatened by conversion from their natural state to other uses or could be managed or restored to effectively conserve, enhance or restore ecological function.
OTHER	
Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP-formally RWEF)	Allows cooperative agreements between Secretary of Agriculture and partners on AWEP activities. Broadens list of eligible activities to include practices to mitigate the effects of drought, including the building of on-farm ponds and reservoirs. Removes priority consideration for projects that include multiple partners and that are most likely to improve the water quantity or quality issue of concern. Does not explicitly include non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as eligible partners. Allows monitoring, but does not require it to be a component of an AWEP project; no priority areas.
Congress – State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program	Congress – State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program provides the opportunity to secure Congressional sponsorship of project funding, including water project funding, through the annual federal budget process. The program's stated purpose is to strengthen state, local governments, and tribal abilities to address environmental and public health threats while furthering environmental compliance. http://thomas.loc.gov/links/ .
U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Development Facilities Program	U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works and Development Facilities Program – The program provides funding to help distressed communities in economic decline revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. The program focuses on redeveloping existing infrastructure. For more information, visit www.eda.gov/investmentPriorities.htm .
Grants.gov	Grants.gov at http://www.grants.gov/ , which is the official federal website for information on more than 1,000 federal grant programs. The site includes an automatic email notification system for keeping apprised of federal grant opportunities.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at http://www.cfda.gov/ , which provides a database of all federal programs available to state and local governments; public, quasi- public, and private profit and nonprofit organizations and institutions; specialized groups; and individuals. There are a variety of sources of niche funding that may be appropriate to your situation. There are also private funding sources (endowments, private trusts, etc.) that may, on occasion, fund water-related projects; a variety of sources to investigate these opportunities are available on the web.
STATE	
Florida Forever Program/Board of Trustees (Department of Environmental Protection)	To fund the acquisition and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands and lands to protect water resource development and supply. To increase public access, public lands management and maintenance, and protection of land by acquisition of conservation easements. Florida Forever is the umbrella funding source for the state programs listed below.
Florida Forever Program Water Management Districts (Department of Environmental Protection)	To fund the acquisition of lands and capital project expenditures necessary to implement the water management districts' priority lists; \$25 million of the annual Florida Forever allocation to the SFWMD is to be used exclusively for the acquisition of land needed to implement the CERP.
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services BMP Implementation	Funding for the design and implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices.
Florida Communities Trust (Department of Environmental Protection)	To fund the state's land acquisition grant program for local governments and non-profits to acquire lands that promote outdoor recreation and natural resource protection needs identified in local government comprehensive plans.
Florida Forever Program In-holdings and Additions Programs (Department of Environmental Protection)	To acquire in-holdings and additions to existing conservation lands.
Florida Greenways and Trails (Department of Environmental Protection)	To fund the statewide initiative to create a system of greenways and trails connecting communities and conservation areas.
Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (Department of Environmental Protection)	To fund the acquisition or development of land for public outdoor recreation and the acquisition of in-holdings and additions for state parks.
Save Our Everglades Trust Fund (Department of Environmental Protection)	To implement the CERP.

Program	Purpose
Florida's Rural Land Stewardship Program (Department of Economic Opportunity)	The intent of the program is to direct development of rural lands to preserve agriculture and protect the environment. Local governments designate stewardship areas within their Comprehensive Plans and credits are allocated to individual parcels, based on environmental and other values. The credits are recorded as a covenant or restrictive easement.
Florida Coastal Management Program (Department of Environmental Protection)	To implement 23 statutes that protect and enhance the state's natural, cultural and economic coastal resources, and to coordinate local, state and federal agency activities using existing laws to ensure that Florida's coast is as valuable to future generations as it is today.
Matching Aid to Restore States' Habitat Program (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission)	Provides funding to acquire and enhance habitat for waterfowl.
Clean Water State Revolving Fund	The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program provides low-interest loans to local governments to plan, design, and build or upgrade wastewater, stormwater, and nonpoint source pollution prevention projects. Certain agricultural best management practices may also qualify for funding. Discounted assistance for small communities is available. Interest rates on loans are below market rates and vary based on the economic wherewithal of the community. The Clean Water SRF is Florida's largest financial assistance program for water infrastructure. More information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/cwsrf .
Drinking Water SRF Loan Program	The Drinking Water SRF loan program provides low-interest loans to local governments and certain private utilities to plan, design, and build or upgrade drinking water systems. Discounted assistance for small communities may be available. Interest rates on loans are typically 40% below market rates. More information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/dwsrf .
Small Community Wastewater Facilities Grants Program	The Small Community Wastewater Facilities Grants Program provides grants to fund the construction of wastewater facilities in municipalities with 10,000 or fewer people and per capita income levels below Florida's average per capita income. A local match is required. The program is linked to the Clean Water SRF loan program outlined above, and is highly competitive. More information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wff/cwsrf/smalcwgp.htm .
Section 319 Grant Program	Florida's Section 319 grant program administers funds received from EPA to implement projects or programs that reduce nonpoint sources of pollution. Projects or programs must benefit Florida's priority watersheds ("impaired waters"), and local sponsors must provide at least a 40% match or in-kind contribution. Eligible activities include demonstration and evaluation of urban and agricultural stormwater BMPs, stormwater retrofits, and public education. More information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/319h.htm .
Total Maximum Daily Load	Funding for projects related to the implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load determinations may be available through periodic legislative appropriations to the Department. When funds are available, the program prioritizes stormwater retrofit projects to benefit impaired waters, somewhat along the lines of the Section 319 grant program listed above. More information is available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/tmdl_grant.htm .

Community Budget Issue Request	The Florida Legislature may solicit applications directly for Community Budget Issue Request projects, including water projects, in anticipation of upcoming legislative sessions. This process is an opportunity to secure legislative sponsorship of project funding through the state budget. The Legislature may coordinate applications with the Department. In other years, the Legislature will not solicit projects but may include them in the budget in any event. You are advised to contact your local legislative delegation to determine whether there are opportunities available to fund your project. Information on contacting Senators and Representatives is available at www.leg.state.fl.us .
Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program	Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program – Funds are available annually for water and sewer projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Monies also may be available for water and sewer projects that serve a specific “job-creating entity” as long as most of the jobs created are for people with low or moderate incomes. For more information, visit http://www.floridajobs.org/community-planning-and-development/assistance-for-governments-and-organizations/florida-small-cities-community-development-block-grant-program
Florida Rural Water Association Loan Program	This program provides low-interest bond or bank financing for community utility projects in coordination with the Department’s SRF programs discussed above. Other financial assistance may also be available. For more information, visit www.frwa.net/ and look for the links to “Funding” and “Long-Term Financing.”
Enterprise Florida	Enterprise Florida’s program is a resource for a variety of public and private projects and activities, including those in rural communities, to facilitate the creation, capital investment, and strengthening and diversification of local economies by promoting tourism, trade and economic development. The various Enterprise Florida programs and financial incentives are intended, among other things, to provide additional financial assistance to enable communities to better access other infrastructure funding programs. For more information, visit www.eflora.com/ ; contact information is available from the “Contact Us” link at the top of the page.
SFWMD Cooperative Funding Program	Funding to local governments for the construction of stormwater management, alternative water supply and water conservation projects.
SFWMD Dispersed Water Management Program	The District's Dispersed Water Management Program encourages private property owners to retain water on their land rather than drain it, accept and detain regional runoff for storage or do both. Landowners typically become involved in the program through cost-share cooperative projects, easements or payment for environmental services. Program areas include: Northern Everglades - Payment for Environmental Services, Water Farming, and Cooperative Projects on Private Lands.
RESTORE Act Funding	
Florida Resource Directory	The Florida Resource Directory at http://redi.state.fl.us/ provides a searchable directory of information about and links to many state and federal programs with resources available to help local communities. Funding for water-related projects is just one of many types of assistance identified here.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
Lee County Conservation 20/20 Program	Land acquisition and stewardship program to protect and preserve natural wildlife habitat, water quality and supply, protect developed lands from flooding, and provide resource-based recreation.
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	
Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.	To preserve environmentally valuable or sensitive lands and open space areas in and around the Central Florida Ridge for the benefit of the general public, and to educate the public as to the importance of such lands and their preservation.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	To award challenge grants that address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend, work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests, leverage available funding, and evaluate project outcomes.
The Conservation Fund	To forge partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage, American's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open space.
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	To preserve plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on earth. TNC works to increase public funding at the local, state and federal level and works with landowners to craft innovative land protection projects.
Trust for Public Lands (TPL)	To help agencies and communities create a vision for conservation, raise funds for conservation and complete conservation real estate transactions. TPL raises public, as well as private, funds and packages projects to funders and agencies.